

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking into the issues of safety certification for rail transit agencies and other public transit guideways.

Rulemaking 02-01-009
(Filed January 9, 2002)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
NOTICING A WORKSHOP ON APRIL 25, 2002, IN SACRAMENTO**

Summary

This ruling notices a workshop for Thursday, April 25, 2002, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Sacramento Regional Transit District Administrative Office, 1400 29th Street, Sacramento, California 95816. The workshop will be conducted by Sarita Sarvate of the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division. Ms. Sarvate may be contacted by telephone at (415) 703-1506, or through electronic mail at www.sbs@cpuc.ca.gov.

Background

On January 9, 2002, the Commission issued Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) 02-01-009 to consider a proposed revision of General Order (GO) 164-B to strengthen pre-revenue service safety review for rail fixed guideway systems in California. The OIR set forth changes to GO 164-B that would establish Commission review and approval requirements for (a) general Safety Certification Program Plans, (b) Project-specific Safety Certification Plans prior to construction, and (c) Project-specific Safety Certification Verification reports prior to revenue service on all major capital projects.

Discussion

While the OIR did not establish that a workshop would be scheduled, the Commission generally favors workshops if, upon review of the filed comments, it appears that such a meeting would produce a better end product in the form of the rule changes.

Many of the filed comments urge the Commission to schedule a workshop during the April meeting of the Rail Operations and Regulatory (ROAR) Committee in Sacramento. Members of the ROAR Committee include all rail transit agencies and commuter rail agencies in California. Parties state that resolution of all or most issues at the ROAR Committee meeting and at the workshop may obviate the need for hearings in this proceeding.

The Commission desires to hear from all of the competing interests in a workshop forum where the substantive rule changes can be aired and studied. Following the workshop, staff of the Rail Safety and Carriers Division will within two weeks prepare, circulate and file a report identifying those matters on which consensus has been reached and outlining the positions of the parties on issues where there is disagreement. Other parties may file comments on staff's report within two weeks of its issuance. A Prehearing Conference will be scheduled on June 12, 2002, to determine the course of further proceedings.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division will conduct a workshop on April 25, 2002, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Sacramento Regional Transit District Administrative Office, 1400 29th Street, Sacramento, California 95816.

2. On or before May 13, 2002, Commission staff will prepare, circulate and file a report identifying issues on which agreement has been reached and outlining the positions of the parties on issues where there is disagreement.

3. Other parties may (but are not required to) file and circulate comments on the staff report on or before May 28, 2002.

4. A Prehearing Conference will be conducted at 10 a.m. on June 12, 2002, in the Commission's Courtroom, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California.

Dated April 9, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ GLEN WALKER

Glen Walker
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Noticing a Workshop on April 25, 2002, in Sacramento on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated April 9, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JEANNIE CHANG
Jeannie Chang

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.

